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February 6, 2003

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W., TW-A325
Washington, DC 20554

Re: **Notice of Oral Ex Parte Presentation**
WT Docket No. 94-102; WT Docket No. 02-377

Dear Ms. Dortch:

On February 5, 2003, Elizabeth Kohler and Kyle Gruis of Rural Cellular Corporation ("RCC") and I met with Blaise Scinto, Eugenie Barton, Patrick Forster and Dan Grosh of the Policy Division. Wireless Telecommunications Bureau.

During the meeting, Ms. Kohler and Mr. Gruis discussed progress by RCC to achieve compliance with E911 Phase I and Phase II requirements in areas where Public Safety Answering Points ("PSAPs") have made deployment requests. Mr. Gruis commented on RCC's quarterly progress report, filed January 31, 2003, and mentioned delays in deployment of Phase I in certain counties of Minnesota where RCC has requested but has not yet been assigned street addresses for its installed cell sites. Follow up action is planned to obtain the necessary street addresses.

Because RCC uses Time Division Multiple Access ("TDMA") digital technology in its wireless systems, a network-based solution for Phase II implementation is planned. Ms. Kohler and Mr. Gruis summarized work underway to install Time Difference of Arrival ("TDOA") technology at cell sites in Minnesota, Vermont and Alabama in areas where PSAPs have made Phase II requests. RCC has consulted with its contractor, Grayson Wireless, and has learned that if the TDOA

¹ RCC's affiliate, Wireless Alliance, L.L.C., operates a GSM system in a portion of the RCC "midwest" region. The number of customers served by Wireless Alliance, L.L.C. is relatively small when compared with other RCC customers in the midwest region.


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Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary
February 6, 2003
Page 2

installation were to be supplemented with Angle of Arrival ("AOA") systems, there would be only a modest (approximately 10%) improvement in location accuracy. Considering the numerous problems RCC would encounter in an installation of AOA equipment, including excessive tower loading, inability to share towers with other carriers and need for many new towers solely for AOA equipment, RCC plans a TDOA but not an AOA installation at this time.

There was discussion of Comments filed by RCC in support of a recent Petition for Forbearance from E911 Accuracy Standards Imposed on Tier III Carriers ("Petition") filed with the Commission by the Tier III Coalition. RCC requests that the relief sought by the Petition apply not only to Tier III carriers, but also to Tier II carriers such as RCC in their deployment of Phase II service in Rural Service Areas.

Very truly yours,


David L. Nace

cc: Blaise Scinto
Eugenie Barton
Patrick Forster
Daniel F. Grosh